

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~.

1 (currently amended): A transfer device, comprising:

a carriage ~~running~~ rotating along a ring-shaped fixed horizontal rail, said carriage comprising an outer ring, an inner ring, and wheels connected between the outer ring and the inner ring and running on the rail;

a ~~vertical~~ columns connected rigidly to the inner ring of the carriage, and extending above and/or below the carriage;

a table having a stroke capable of moving above and/or below the carriage, and lifting up and down along the vertical ~~carriage~~ columns, said table being surrounded by the vertical columns;

a drivingly running mechanism incorporated into the carriage so that the carriage can be run; and

a drivingly lifting mechanism incorporated into the vertical columns or the table so that the table can be lifted up and down;

~~the drivingly running mechanism being constructed so as to drive the carriage by a driving motor mounted to the carriage;~~

~~the drivingly lifting mechanism being constructed so that the vertical column and the table are lifted up and down by a driving motor incorporated into the vertical column or the table in a state of being engaged with each other;~~

~~objects being transferred in vertical and horizontal directions in a state of being placed on the table;~~

~~characterized in that~~

~~the table is lifted up and down to an object carry in and out floor without allowing the vertical column to cross the object carry in and out floor.~~

2 (canceled)

3 (canceled)

4 (currently amended): The transfer device according to claim 31, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising at least another plurality of carriages is combined with the and plurality of at least another horizontal rails, wherein the horizontal rails are vertically

Appl. No. : 10/070,635  
Filed : March 1, 2002

3 arranged in parallel at a predetermined interval ~~so that the carriage is supported to the horizontal rail, the vertical columns isare~~ connected rigidly to the carriages ~~at a height position of the horizontal rail, and each horizontal rail is fixed to a plurality of object carry-~~ in position ~~is provided around the horizontal rail throughout plural a floors so that the where~~ an objects are to be carried by the transfer device is placed or stored ~~transferred to and carried in the carry in position.~~

5-11 (canceled)

12 (new): The transfer device according to claim 1, wherein the table has a size for accommodating one object.

13 (new): A transfer device structure comprising an upper transfer device and a lower transfer device, each defined in claim 1, wherein between the upper and lower transfer devices, a carry in-and-out floor is provided for bring objects in or out of both the upper and lower transfer devices, wherein no vertical column crosses the floor, said table of the upper transfer device being configured to carry an object under the table, said table of the lower transfer device being configured to carry an object above the table.

14 (new): The transfer device structure according to claim 13, wherein the upper transfer device ant the lower transfer device are vertically aligned.